

Summer Non-paid Volunteer – OSWER/ORCR

RCRA Economics Project: Participate in ongoing economic analyses and to gain direct insight into the Agency's regulatory process and program activities

Describe program (mission/objectives):

The Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery's (ORCR's) Economics and Risk Analysis Staff (ERAS) is made up of economists, scientists, engineers, and risk assessors with a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise. These individuals provide both economic and risk analyses support to all of the Program Divisions within ORCR and occasionally for other Offices within the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). On the economics side, this support includes economic assessments of proposed and final rules, life cycle assessments of industrial and municipal materials recycling, benefits assessments for energy and greenhouse gas reductions, as well as environmental justice and other assessments. From the risk assessment side, this support includes conducting human health and ecological risk assessments for proposed and final rules and potential recycling scenarios, overseeing data collection, advising states and regions on risk issues, and writing and reviewing guidance documents.

Define project(s), objective(s) and tasks/assignment(s):

Project(s):

The economic analyses conducted by this office are an essential requirement in the regulatory process of designing and implementing federal environmental laws. Currently, EPA is promulgating several high profile rulemakings, while also working to improve our ability to quantify the benefits attributable to our program. The intern would assist with one or more current projects involving for example: 1) the establishment of Financial Assurance requirements under CERCLA/Superfund for certain industry sectors; 2) the development of hazardous waste generator and export/import regulations; and/or 3) the calculation of important program cost and benefit estimates needed for program evaluation purposes.

Objective(s):

This internship is a wonderful opportunity for an economist or environmental analyst to actively participate in ongoing economic analyses and to gain direct insight into the Agency's regulatory process and program activities. The intern will work with a multi-disciplinary team of experts and get hands on experience. The work would provide a student with excellent technical and analytical skills in problem solving and economics, which are highly marketable skills.

Task(s)/assignment(s):

The intern will be assigned tasks or tasks similar to those listed below:

- Conduct analyses, document analytical methods, and summarize results/findings for review.
- Research and prepare draft issue papers, briefings and decision documents.
- Acquire information from governmental and public sources to prepare analyses of data bases.
- Assist in preparing PowerPoint presentations.

[Note: The intern may also work on multiple projects during their internship.]

Identify prerequisite qualifications:

In addition, a basic understanding of statistical analyses, as well as environmental science and/or engineering principals would be very helpful.

In order to perform effectively in this assignment the following qualifications are required:

- Outstanding analytical and research skills, including spreadsheet software experience;
- Basic understanding of economic principles;
- Good communication skills, and experience working with teams and/or the public;
- Good writing skills, and experience preparing short informational documents;
- Intermediate to advanced skills in Microsoft Office applications, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access; and
- Interest/course work in environmental economics, environmental policy, environmental science, environmental engineering, statistics, and/or cost/benefit analyses.

Describe any other requirements such as travel or training: If you know there will be travel costs associated with conferences or training, please make sure to list details and costs here:

No additional requirements.